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**Subject:** Notes from debrief call at 4pm 09/14/17  
**Date:** Thursday, September 14, 2017 11:05:13 PM

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Hi everyone. Here are the notes from our call at 4pm today.

### **Topics Covered**

1. **DRCs:**

- a. Baytown DRC is hopping! 75 families came to the table. FEMA bused people into the DRC. There was a food truck, sponsored by Exxon, giving free food. The CLs gave out almost all the handouts they had on hand.
- b. EPA will be allowed to have a table at the DRC in Port Arances. It just opened on 9/14.
- c. The DRC in Fort Bend accepted copies of the EPA handouts at their mitigation table.

2. **EOCs, City Contacts and CBOs:** Several teams have been reaching out to their EOCs, City managers, and Community based organizations. CLs are being creative and finding people to connect with in their counties. Everyone is busy.

- a. In Harris County, there is a CBO for the Vietnamese community that has a lot of need. They have requested EPA speaker, handouts, and EPA presence. CLs plan to visit that community on Friday.
- b. Jasper/Newton Counties have residents with aerobic septic systems that have failed. They need information on how to fix or care for them.
- c. Water testing kits in Newton/Jasper Counties are not being picked up by the public because the public doesn't know they are available.
- d. Word is getting out that EPA is out engaging the communities.
- e. CLs helped the Red Cross with their cleaning buckets and corrected the type of mask that they were providing to the public.
- f. Debris is still an issue in affected areas.
- g. Orange County CLs sat in on a multi-city meeting. There is a lot of need in Orange County as the pre-planned shelter facilities flooded and they have 2000+ households where the people do not have a place to stay. There are no shelters in the city and some people are being evicted from first floor apartments with no place to go.
- h. The United Way was a great asset in Fort Bend. They requested handouts and they will use them to reach out to the 20+ organizations that they are connected to.

- i. Health Department in Montgomery county was a resource for EPA CLs and a resource for CLs to connect with the citizens.
  - j. Many cities/counties/CBOs are utilizing Facebook and Twitter. These are good resources for CLs to research organizations to reach out to.
- 3. **Mosquito spraying** in Jasper/Newton area was cancelled because info about the chemicals used didn't get disseminated to the public and they were worried about the harmful effects of the spraying.
- 4. **HHW Issue:** There have been a few CLs that heard reports from citizens that they were told not to clean out their homes because FEMA needs to see it first. CLs would like to know the correct messaging with respect to FEMA requirements.
- 5. **Moisture Sensors:** Have we heard if we are going to get some? No one has heard anything.
- 6. **Printing Issue:** We can print at the lab. But they ran out of white paper by 3pm today. Used yellow, blue and green paper. CLs are spending hours – yes hours – for each team to print up the handouts that they need. This is wasting valuable CL time.
- 7. **Long Term Support Needed?** Most CLs agree that there is enough need in the hurricane affected areas for longer term support.
- 8. **EJ Concerns:** Several teams are bumping up against communities that are highly impacted by the hurricane and are less able to recover due to economic or language barriers. They need to be identified soon so they can get extra support. CLs would like a way to get expedited approval for the support in EJ communities. Gloria stated that if a CL sees an EJ “Hot Issue”, we can send an email about it to [R6HarveyEJ@epa.gov](mailto:R6HarveyEJ@epa.gov) and [R6Harvey@epa.gov](mailto:R6Harvey@epa.gov). Some of the currently identified needs are:
  - a. Speakers to come into Vietnamese community to discuss hazards of mold and how to recover from the hurricane
  - b. Expedited handouts translations.
  - c. Help for displaced persons where there are no shelters available.
- 9. **Approved Handouts:** If you come across a handout that isn't in the Approved Handout folder, send it to Janetta for approval.

#### **Issues added to the Tracking Spreadsheet**

- A. Need for expedited response to requests for support in EJ areas. Requests could be for speakers and translated materials, among other things. This has been added to the

spreadsheet.

- B. CLs would like to know the correct messaging with respect to FEMA requirements for when to clean out their homes. This has been added to the spreadsheet.
- C. While the CLs have been given permission to print handouts at the lab, this takes a long time and the lab has run out of white paper. Teams that need many handouts for the work at the DRCs have had to spend hours in a day making the necessary copies. This has been added to the spreadsheet.

Thanks again everyone.

-Joan

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